

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-2, 4-16, 18-19, 21-30, 32 and 34-38 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, 1-2, 4-8, 14, 16, 18-19, 21-29 and 34 are amended, claims 3, 17, 20, 31 and 33 are canceled, and claims 36-38 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

**I. Formal Matter**

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matters in claims 5, 7-8, 10-12, 18, 20-21, 26-27 and 30. Claim 20 is canceled by this Amendment. Claims 5, 7-8, 10-12, 18, 21, 26-27 and 30 are not written in independent form at this time, since their base claims are allowable as discussed below.

Applicant also notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 28 and 29.

Claims 1-2 and 14 are amended for better clarity.

**II. The Pending Claims Define patentable Subject Matter**

A. The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 31-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,945,972 to Okumura et al. (Okumura).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, each of the static circuits stores a data signal supplied from a respective different one of the plurality of data lines. This feature is shown in Fig. 3 and described in the specification at paragraph [0070], for example. In other words, each of the static circuits in memory 21 shown in Fig. 3, for example, receives a data signal supplied from one of the data lines d0-d3. One of the advantages is that this utilizes time frame more effectively.

On the other hand, as shown in Fig. 3 of Okumura, memories 121a and 121b are connected to the same signal line Lbj. Accordingly, these memories do not store a data signal supplied from a respective different one of a plurality of data lines.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentably distinct from the applied prior art since Okumura fails to teach or suggest the claimed feature.

The rejection of claim 31 is moot, since claim 31 is canceled by this Amendment.

Claim 32 is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

At least for the reasons discussed above, Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection.

B. The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okumura in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,515,068 to Uragami et al. (Uragami). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 recites, *inter alia*, that a storing section has a first static circuit and a second static circuit, and that the first static circuit stores a first data signal supplied through a first data line of a plurality of data lines, and the second static circuit stores a second data signal supplied through a second data line of the plurality of data lines. This feature is shown in Fig. 3, for example.

As described above, in connection with claim 1, Okumura does not teach or suggest a data signal supplied from a different data line of the plurality of data lines. Uragami does not overcome this deficiency. Accordingly, claim 2 is patentably from the applied prior art.

The rejection of claim 3 is moot, since claim 3 is canceled by this Amendment.

Claim 13 is allowable at least for its dependence on claim 2. As such, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

C. The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okumura and Uragami, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,384,806 to Matsueda et al. (Matsueda). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4 and 6 are amended to depend from new claim 37, which depends from claim 2. As discussed below, claim 37 is allowable. Matsueda does not overcome the deficiency of

Okumura or Uragami. As such, claims 4 and 6 also allowable at least for their dependence on claim 37. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

D. The Office Action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okumura, Uragami and Matsueda, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,973,456 to Osada et al. (Osada). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Osada does not overcome the deficiency of Okumura, Uragami and Matsueda with respect to claim 6. Accordingly, claim 9 is allowable at least for its dependence on an allowable base claim. As such, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

E. The Office Action rejects claims 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okumura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,518,941 to Kimura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Similar to claim 1, claim 14 recites, *inter alia*, that each of the static circuits stores a data signal supplied from a respective different one of a plurality of date lines. As discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that Okumura does not teach or suggest this feature. Kimura does not overcome this deficiency. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 is patentably distinct from the applied prior art.

Claims 15 and 16 are allowable at least for their dependence on claim 14.

The rejection of claim 17 is moot, since claim 17 is canceled by this Amendment.

At least for the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

F. The Office Action rejects claims 19, 22-25 and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okumura, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,583,777 to Hebiguchi et al. (Hebiguchi) and U.S. Patent No. 6,278,428 to Smith. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 19 is rewritten to dependent from claim 1. Neither Hebiguchi nor Smith overcomes the deficiency of Okumura with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claims 19 and

22-25 are allowable at least for their dependence on an allowable base claim.

Similar to claim 1, claim 34 recites, *inter alia*, that each of the static circuits stores a data signal supplied through a respective different one of a plurality of data lines.

As discussed above, Okumura does not teach or suggest this feature. Neither Hebiguchi nor Smith overcomes this feature. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 34 is patentably distinct from the applied prior art.

Claim 35 is allowable at least for its dependence on claim 34.

At least for these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

G. Claims 36-38 are added by this Amendment.

Claims 36 and 38 recites that a number of memory cells corresponds to a tonal level, and that a degree of the tonal level is determined by the data signals stored by the memory cells. This feature was originally recited in claims 1 and 14, from which claims 36 and 38 now depend from, respectively. Accordingly, claims 36 and 38 are allowable at least for their dependence on an allowable base claim.

Claim 37 recites a converting section that converts a value based on a value of the data signal held by the storing section into an analog value. This feature was originally recited in claim 2. None of the applied prior art teaches or suggests the feature of claim 2. As such, claim 37 is allowable for its dependence on claim 2.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2, 4-16, 18-19, 21-30, 32 and 34-37 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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